

# HOUSE BILL 1045

R4, M1

2lr1607

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By: **Delegates Mizeur and Bobo**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **The Maryland Native Plants and Wildflower Preservation Act**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of commemorative registration plates that  
4 the Motor Vehicle Administration may issue at any one time; requiring the  
5 Administration to issue specially designed commemorative registration plates to  
6 enhance public awareness of the importance of native plants and wildflowers to  
7 the Chesapeake Bay; requiring the Administration to transfer a certain portion  
8 of the additional registration fee charged for commemorative plates issued  
9 under this Act to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the preservation and protection  
10 of native plants and wildflowers; creating a native plants and wildflowers  
11 project area within the Chesapeake Conservation Corps; and generally relating  
12 to commemorative license plates and the preservation and protection of native  
13 plants and wildflowers.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Transportation  
16 Section 13–618  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Natural Resources  
21 Section 8–1920  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Transportation**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13-618.

2 (a) The Administration may issue special commemorative original or  
3 substitute registration plates for any geographical, historical, natural resource, or  
4 environmental commemoration of statewide significance.

5 **(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ISSUE A SPECIAL ORIGINAL OR**  
6 **SUBSTITUTE REGISTRATION PLATE TO COMMEMORATE NATIVE PLANTS AND**  
7 **WILDFLOWERS.**

8 **[(b)] (C)** The owner of a vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not  
9 intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity  
10 that owns the vehicle considered eligible by the Administration may apply to the  
11 Administration for the assignment of a commemorative registration plate under this  
12 section if the vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

13 (1) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

14 (2) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a manufacturer's rated capacity of  
15 one ton or less;

16 (3) A Class G (trailer) vehicle; or

17 (4) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

18 **[(c)] (D)** (1) **[An original] ORIGINAL** or substitute commemorative  
19 **[plate] PLATES** may only be issued under this section for a fixed period of 2  
20 consecutive years after **[its] THEIR** initial issuance.

21 (2) The Administration may **[only] NOT** issue **[one] MORE THAN TWO**  
22 commemorative **[plate] PLATES** under this section at any one time.

23 **[(d)] (E)** (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required  
24 under this title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a commemorative registration plate  
25 under this section shall pay:

26 (i) An additional initial registration fee set by the  
27 Administration when the new registration plates are issued to the vehicle under this  
28 section; or

29 (ii) An additional renewal fee set by the Administration each  
30 time the plate is renewed.

31 (2) (i) The Administration shall set the additional initial  
32 registration fee at a level that will enable the Administration to recover its costs under  
33 this section.

1 (ii) The Administration may set the additional initial  
2 registration fee at a level that is sufficient to result in a surplus after costs are  
3 subtracted.

4 (iii) The Administration shall retain a portion of the additional  
5 initial registration fee that is sufficient to allow the Administration to recover any  
6 costs of issuing and distributing commemorative plates under this section.

7 (iv) Any surplus moneys remaining after the Administration has  
8 recovered the costs of issuing a commemorative plate under this section and moneys  
9 collected for additional renewal fees may not be retained by or transferred to any  
10 agency of the State for any purpose.

11 (v) Notwithstanding subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, the  
12 surplus moneys and moneys collected for additional renewal fees may be retained for  
13 the [purpose] **PURPOSES** described in [paragraph] **PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4)** of this  
14 subsection.

15 (3) **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS**  
16 **SUBSECTION, THE** surplus moneys and moneys collected for additional renewal fees  
17 shall be disbursed by the Administration to a nonprofit organization that is:

18 (i) Closely related to the geographical, historical, natural  
19 resource, or environmental theme which the plate commemorates; and

20 (ii) Designated by the Administration under subsection (e) of  
21 this section.

22 **(4) THE SURPLUS MONEYS AND MONEYS COLLECTED FOR**  
23 **ADDITIONAL RENEWAL FEES OF THE NATIVE PLANT AND WILDFLOWER**  
24 **COMMEMORATIVE PLATES SHALL BE DISBURSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO**  
25 **THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TO FUND THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION**  
26 **CORPS' CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE STATE'S**  
27 **NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS.**

28 **[(4)] (5)** No portion of the additional initial registration or renewal  
29 fees may be credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account for  
30 distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.

31 **[(e)] (F)** (1) The Administration shall adopt regulations not inconsistent  
32 with the Maryland Vehicle Law to govern the issuance of special registration plates  
33 under this section.

34 (2) Before designating any nonprofit organization to receive any  
35 surplus moneys or moneys collected for additional renewal fees and before distributing

1 the moneys to any nonprofit organization, the Administration shall adopt regulations  
2 specific to each new commemorative plate detailing:

3 (i) The name and nature of the nonprofit organization receiving  
4 the money;

5 (ii) The relationship of the nonprofit organization to the  
6 geographical, historical, natural resource, or environmental theme which the plate  
7 commemorates; and

8 (iii) The plan of distribution of the funds.

9 (3) The Administration shall consult with the nonprofit organization  
10 designated to receive moneys under this section to establish a schedule under which  
11 the Administration will transfer to the nonprofit organization revenue collected on  
12 behalf of the nonprofit organization under this section.

13 **[(f)] (G)** The additional fees to the annual registration fee required by this  
14 section are not required for special registration of a vehicle that is exempt under §  
15 13–903 of this title, or a vehicle with a special registration plate recognizing:

16 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

17 (2) A volunteer fire department, volunteer rescue squad, or volunteer  
18 ambulance company in this State.

19 **[(g)] (H)** (1) A special registration number as specified by the  
20 Administration and assigned under this section may consist of:

21 (i) Any combination of:

22 1. Letters; and

23 2. Numerals; and

24 (ii) Any design approved by the Administration that adequately  
25 reflects the geographical, historical, natural resource, or environmental theme which  
26 the plate commemorates.

27 (2) A special registration number or design assigned under this section  
28 shall be displayed on the registration plates for the vehicle.

29 (3) The Administration shall consult with the nonprofit organization  
30 designated to receive moneys under this section with respect to any design of the  
31 Chesapeake Bay Commemorative License Plate.

1 8–1920.

2 (a) The Corps Program’s projects and activities shall meet an identifiable  
3 public need, with specific emphasis on projects that result in long–term preservation,  
4 protection, and conservation of the environment, in areas including environmental  
5 restoration, agricultural and forestry, infrastructure, [and] educational improvements,  
6 **AND NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS.**

7 (b) Environmental restoration projects may include:

8 (1) Specific nutrient reduction activities, such as planting of bay  
9 grasses and oysters and installing natural shorelines on public spaces; and

10 (2) Working with communities to improve their environmental  
11 impacts and activities and to encourage appropriate environmental stewardship.

12 (c) Agricultural and forestry projects may include working with Corps  
13 Program volunteers from rural areas of the State in partnership with the agricultural  
14 community in projects to prevent or reduce nutrient runoff.

15 (d) Infrastructure projects may include:

16 (1) Improving the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and  
17 low–income households;

18 (2) Implementing clean energy projects in communities to enhance the  
19 use of renewable energy, including free and low–cost energy audits; and

20 (3) Building or assisting in building infrastructure to promote  
21 environmental education including outdoor classrooms, nature trails, and schoolyard  
22 habitats and watershed restoration, stream restoration, rain gardens, and other  
23 low–impact development projects.

24 (e) Educational projects may include:

25 (1) Developing interactive environmental education and energy  
26 conservation education for elementary and secondary school students and the public;

27 (2) Developing curriculum targeted at training high school students  
28 and apprentices to obtain skills necessary to create and implement clean energy  
29 projects in their communities and to compete for jobs in the emerging clean energy  
30 sector; and

31 (3) Assisting schools to become “green schools” and reduce energy  
32 costs through hands–on projects with their students.

1           (f) Energy conservation projects may include the projects defined in §  
2 8–1913(d) of this part.

3           **(G) NATIVE PLANT AND WILDFLOWER PROJECTS MAY INCLUDE**  
4 **WORKING WITH CORPS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS ON PROJECTS TO PRESERVE,**  
5 **PROTECT, AND CONSERVE NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS.**

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2012.